



Bay Area Transportation: State of the System 2002



METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION and CALTRANS DISTRICT 4



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Table of Contents

Introduction	1	State of Repair	37
		Freeway Pavement	38
The Transportation System in Brief	3	Local Roadway Pavement	40
		Transit Service Calls	42
Mobility: Getting Around the Bay Area	7		
Freeway Congestion	8	Airports and Seaports	45
Selected Freeway Commute Times	12	Airport Passenger and Cargo Volumes	46
Freeway Traffic Volumes	14	Seaport Marine Cargo Volumes	48
Truck Traffic	16		
Carpool Lane Time Savings	18	Appendices	
Carpool Lane Usage	20	Appendix A: Notes on Data Collection	51
Local Traffic	22	Appendix B: Congested Freeway Locations – Morning and Evening Commutes, 2001	57
Transit On-Time Performance	24	Appendix C: Pavement Condition of Bay Area Jurisdictions, 2001	65
Transit Ridership	26		
Safety	29	Credits	68
Motor Vehicle Collisions	30		
Motor Vehicle Collisions – Bicycles and Pedestrians	32		
Transit Safety	34		

The Authoring Agencies

Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC)

MTC is the transportation planning, coordinating and financing agency for the nine-county San Francisco Bay Area. The agency also helps to monitor and — in concert with Caltrans and others — to improve the operation of the regional transportation network.

Caltrans District 4

Caltrans District 4 is the operating arm of the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) for the nine-county San Francisco Bay Area. Caltrans is responsible for the planning, design, construction, maintenance and operation of the state highway system (and the Interstate Highway System in California), and is the state's overall manager of inter-regional transportation services.

To Users of the Bay Area Transportation System

Transportation is an important aspect of the quality of life in the Bay Area and a matter of keen interest — and concern — to the region's residents. Every year since 1980, respondents to a public opinion poll sponsored by the Bay Area Council have identified transportation as one of the top three problems in the region; in 15 of those years, transportation was identified as the number one problem. From the weekend bicyclist to the long-haul trucker, from the city-dwelling transit rider to the suburban freeway commuter, what's happening on the region's roads, rails and trails is always a top-of-mind issue.

Just how well is our regional transportation system performing and how are travel conditions changing? To answer these critical questions, the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) and Caltrans District 4 have engaged in a collaborative effort to assemble key facts and performance indicators of interest to Bay Area commuters and other travelers. The publication of this report, *Bay Area Transportation: State of the System 2002*, is a major milestone in this joint effort.

This document, intended as the first in an annual series, assesses how the Bay Area transportation system is holding up. It is a pioneering effort to provide a comprehensive overview of the state of transportation in the Bay Area. The report includes information on freeways, local roadways, transit, bicycle and pedestrian travel, and goods movement — information that, until now, has not been collected in one place. It shows — in a concise and easy-to-understand format — how key factors fared in 2001 (or the most recent time period for which data is available) and discusses trends going back up to five years.

In these pages you will find answers to questions such as the following (organized by topic):

- Mobility — How congested were freeways and local roadways? How often did transit run on time? How much time can you save by carpooling?
- Safety — How many collisions occurred on freeways and local roadways? How many collisions involved bicyclists, pedestrians or transit vehicles?
- State of repair — How well maintained are freeways, local roadways and transit vehicles?
- Airports and seaports — How much cargo passes through Bay Area seaports?

We invite you to page through this inaugural issue of the *State of the System* report. We hope that you will find its contents informative and useful, and we welcome your comments as to both subject matter and presentation.

On behalf of the Metropolitan Transportation Commission and Caltrans District 4, thank you for your interest in Bay Area transportation.

Sincerely,

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